

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Marriage Week, which occurs annually during the week of February 7th. National Marriage Week was established to help couples strengthen their commitment to each other by hosting special events, marriage classes, and home support groups. While it is important for couples to focus on their marriage every day, National Marriage Week is an excellent opportunity for Americans to rededicate themselves to their spouse and to their family.

Marriage was ordained and instituted by God. It is the glue that binds the American family, and the safest harbor in which to raise children. Studies indicate that men and women who have a strong marriage tend to live longer, have better health, and experience more personal joy. Strong marriages also create the safest harbor for children to flourish and experience the complete spiritual, moral, emotional, educational, and financial benefits of both parents.

I have been a long-time advocate of traditional marriage, and have been pleased to support numerous pieces of legislation to protect this sacred institution. The family structure is the cornerstone of our society, and we should emphasize its importance. I encourage all Americans to use this opportunity to renew their commitment and devotion to their spouse, and to personally take the steps they can to preserve this important institution.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and commemorate the heroes of the African-American community, the accomplishments they have achieved for their communities and the freedoms they bravely championed for all Americans.

This year, the theme of Black History Month "African Americans and the Civil War" allows us to reflect on just one of the many moments in history where African Americans played a significant role in the fight for freedom.

Roughly 179,000 African-American men served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 in the Navy. 2,900 of these men were from the State of New Jersey. African American women, while not formally permitted to join the army, nonetheless served as nurses for the wounded.

Their valiant efforts and the extraordinary sacrifices helped unite a divided country and free millions from slavery.

During Black History Month we must also commemorate the accomplishments of the civil rights activist, both known and unknown, who helped imbed equality in the fabric of our great nation.

The impact of African American's service to this country since its founding has been im-

measurable, and there is no doubt that they will continue to shape the future success of our country.

REGARDING LEWISBURG, WV AS "COOLEST" SMALL TOWN IN AMERICA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and thirty nine thousand and sixty eight visitors and residents and still counting have cast votes to designate Lewisburg in my home State of West Virginia, as the coolest small town in America. Whether victory in this contest is ultimately ours or not, we have learned a lot, reminded a whole lot of our friends not to be strangers, and have won new interest from around the country. To all those who competed in this year's effort, we salute you. Of course there are many towns across this great country and in West Virginia that are cool, worthy of recognition, and multiple honors. But to be the coolest, you have to heat up a lot of energies, and fire up plenty of old fashioned grit and hard work, and burn untold candles at both ends, and exhaust a multitude of warm hearts.

And Lewisburg has done just that. Not just in the last year, either. Lewisburg's charm, its endearing hospitality, historically spans the centuries, back to America's earliest beginnings. Nestled in the peacefully lush valley of the Greenbrier River, Lewisburg has hosted Presidents and Generals, Yankees and rebels, patriots and loyalists.

Historic Lewisburg is the county seat of Greenbrier County, and named after Andrew Lewis, a young surveyor, who, in 1751, established a camp near the spring, located behind the present courthouse, and known since that time as the Lewis Spring. In 1782, Lewisburg was formally established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly. The Old Stone Church in Lewisburg, the county seat, was the first Presbyterian Church built west of the Allegheny Mountains and has been in continual use since 1786.

The Greenbrier Valley and mineral-rich springs were fertile grounds for prosperous farming and elegant resort hotels and spas for visitors.

Today, Lewisburg—with its many 18th and 19th century buildings—is home to families, young professionals, and senior citizens and hosts thousands of visitors from all across America and around the world each year. Its vibrant performing arts community offers live performances by artists from around the world, arts in education programming, classes, workshops, fine art exhibits, an independent film series, and more in its own Carnegie Hall—one of only four Carnegie Halls still in continuous use in the world.

But above all its fine attributes, Lewisburg's lasting legacy will be its people, and their close knit neighbors in West Virginia.

INTRODUCING THE JUMPSTARTING OUR BUSINESS SECTOR ACT OF 2011 (JOBS ACT)

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Jumpstarting Our Business Sector Act of 2011 (JOBS Act). This legislation permanently eliminates capital gains and dividends taxes, as well as the corporate tax rate. Additionally, it allows for 100 percent of business expensing for 2012.

As our Nation's unemployment continues to hover around 10 percent and the federal "stimulus" bill passed last Congress did little to improve our economy, it is time that Congress does what should have been done in the first place: help small businesses create jobs.

Abolishing capital gains and dividend taxes would be a much more effective means of stimulating the economy than more government spending. The elimination of these taxes would not only provide a short-term "stimulus," but they would encourage new long-term investment and growth.

By the end of 2011, the United States will have the highest corporate tax rate of the 34 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Eliminating the corporate tax rate will immediately increase the competitiveness of our economy, attract more investment, and lead to job creation.

In addition, extending 100 percent of business expensing for 2012 will provide an incentive for businesses to invest more money back into the business, setting the stage for expansion and the creation of new jobs.

Small businesses are the engine of our economy and create the vast majority of new jobs in this country. And yet, nothing that the Federal Government has done so far to address our economic crisis has been directed towards helping our business community.

We have seen the effects of unchecked and unwarranted Federal Government spending on our economy and employment. Now is the time to once again put our trust in the small businesses and entrepreneurs and to get the Federal Government off their backs and out of their way. I believe the JOBS Act will be a positive step towards that goal.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, while it is my hope that the Andean Trade Preference Act has promoted trade between the Andean countries and the United States and in so doing it has acted to limit drug production, I and many of my colleagues remain deeply concerned over certain recent conduct by the Peruvian government with reference to its treatment of U.S. investment in Peru. I would ask that a letter my colleagues and I recently sent in regard to this matter be made a part of the record. And I would hope our Government would work diligently to protect the interests of our U.S. citizens in this regard. I would